Woodstove Changeout "Lessons Learned" Workshop Recommendations and EPA's Plans

Key recommendations for future action that arose from this workshop are:

- EPA should continue to quantify the wood smoke problem through measurements and possibly receptor modeling; continue to improve emission inventory data; continue to research emission reductions. EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) is conducting before and after ambient monitoring for a woodstove changeout effort in Libby, MT. We currently have no plans for conducting receptor modeling. We are currently working, in a limited manner to improve our emissions inventory.
- EPA should serve as a clearinghouse for information, providing "one-stop shopping" source of credible information. The OAQPS has gathered a vast amount of technical and non-technical wood burning information that we plan to make available in a user-friendly format via our new "Woodstove and Fireplace Website". We are working on substantiating key facts and figures to ensure consistent and credible information (e.g., emission estimates for old woodstoves).
- Efforts should be focused on where there is a problem; understand the source of the problem in your area before undertaking a changeout program; count homes, conduct surveys, etc. to identify number of woodstoves vs. fireplaces; understand the fuels used and fuel costs. *OAQPS is currently supporting 3 woodstove changeout campaigns all in PM2.5 non-attainment areas. OAQPS will include these specific recommendations in communication tools we develop to support state, local and tribal woodstove changeout efforts.*
- EPA should serve as the national-level connection between State/local/tribal agencies, Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association (HPBA), utility companies, and other stakeholders. *OAQPS has contacted numerous potential stakeholders, both federal and non-federal, since the Workshop to gauge their interest in residential wood smoke. We plan to hold a stakeholder meeting in June, 2005 in Washington DC to garner stakeholder support for this effort.*
- Tribes have particular concerns about indoor air exposures and the affordability of new stoves that should be considered. OAQPS has met with the Office of Indoor Air since the Workshop to gain a better understanding of the indoor air issue. Per a request from Tribal leaders, OAQPS presented on the Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Initiative at the National Tribal Environmental Conference in May and received input and recommendations first hand from the Tribes.
- EPA should provide help to communities on ordinances/by-laws (e.g., templates, case studies). We plan to include example voluntary and mandatory burn ban ordinances and local regulations that prohibit the burning of garbage in a fireplace or woodstove for instance. We plan to develop pull together and write up case studies to share via the new website.
- EPA should conduct further research on emissions from manufactured logs. OAQPS has initiated discussions with our Office of Research and Development. We unsuccessfully competed for funds to conduct research. However, EPA Region 5 is funding a limited research project lead by Environment Canada, and OAQPS is providing input on this effort. We don't expect to much more to be done the remainder of the fiscal year, due to more pressing priorities.
- Based on the success of this workshop, additional workshops should be held, and various locations should be considered, to continue information sharing and to build on the enthusiasm that exists. We hope to have a similar, but a half day longer workshop, next March in Salt Lake City during the HBPA EXPO. We will consider other workshops if there is a need.